

President's Message

The new Ontario Deputy Minister of Health, Michael Decter, is reconsidering the Thomson Report on sensitivities. You might write (10th fl - 80 Grosvenor St., Toronto, M7A 2C4) and tell him why it's important to implement Thomson's thirty recommendations, made half a decade ago.

Ask if he's certain that people with sensitivities who have central nervous system symptoms are screened out from the psychiatric population, or whether they continue to be abused by Ministry employees. Think of what it was like before you were diagnosed. Find a way that feels comfortable to help stop the abuse of others.

The federal Department of Health and Welfare is helping again. This month the Health Protection Branch sent out a very good backgrounder on environmental sensitivities ("Issues" 23 December 1991). It went to hundreds of journalists and policy makers. Health and Welfare is changing attitudes in the provincial Ministries of Health, advocating health care for people with sensitivities. Copies are available from Ms. J. Hopkins, 957-1806.

In November, the Ontario Medical Association Ethics Committee looked into how doctors abuse persons with sensitivities. The ethics committee will address the concern in the Ontario Medical Review. Will they honestly describe the problems doctors have caused, or just cover their buns?

Meanwhile, we made it through another year. In March we'll vote in a new executive. Perhaps you'd consider doing something. The board is made up of very nice people, and there are a few more jobs that need to be filled. If you have suggestions, or if you'd like to run for

election, don't hesitate to come forward. Contact Jim McCulloch (832-2303) or myself (837-7173).

Thanks to Harriett Hodgins who's just come on board as our new Membership Coordinator. We've had a problem keeping up with new memberships (we're growing again) and staying in touch with members, so Harriett's involvement is greatly appreciated. Estelle Drolet has come back to help out with the wild game, and Elizabeth Stutt has agreed to keep the library and act as Secretary at Board meetings. Thanks to Manon Gaudreau and Suzanne Talbot for looking after these jobs in the past.

It's been a good experience to come back into the fold and to help by serving you. Recently I was looking back through the past couple of years of EcoSense. A lot of things have changed in the community and in officialdom that will, as they take hold, make life a lot easier for all of us.

Don't forget to send a short note to the Ontario Deputy Minister of Health. And don't forget, all the positions in the executive are up for grabs at the Annual General Meeting in March, including Branch President, so step forward, get involved, and help out.

It's your turn.

Chris Brown
President - Ottawa Branch